**Term 4, Week 5**
**Monday 2 November, 2015**

**The School by the Park – Great Kids, Great Teachers, Great School!**

**Our School Values:** FAIRNESS / RESPECT / EXCELLENCE / INTEGRITY / RESPONSIBILITY / COOPERATION / CARE / PARTICIPATION

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**Dates for the Diary**

- Thu 5 Nov – Year 1 Excursion Vaucluse House
- Wed 11 Nov – Remembrance Day Assembly
- Thu 12 Nov – 4K Excursion to Rocks

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**Principal Nash’s Corner**

What a great day was had by everyone. Well over a hundred visitors were in attendance at each of the K-2 and 3-6 special assemblies.

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**Parent Online Payment System**

Oatley West Public School Banking

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**Grandparents & Grandfriend’s Day**

Our Grandfriends were entertained by our choirs, dance groups and public speaking students with a great poem about Grandparents:

Thoughts shared from K-6 students at Oatley West Public School ...

'everything you would want; nice of course; lovable and know everything; very smart; perfect; funny to play with; kind; caring; good at Maths; good at hugs; generous; everything to me; good at putting money in my bank account; joyful; tremendous; helpful when I get sick; good cooks; interesting; good at spoiling me; helpful with homework; always making sure I am safe;
After the Senior School Assembly, Grandfriends visited classrooms where they enjoyed the company of their grandchildren with all junior school students attending their senior brother or sisters’ classrooms.

A questionnaire was discussed about the Grandfriends days at school. What was great to see, was the Grandfriends adopting students that didn’t have anyone at school for the special day. It made for a very warm and welcome atmosphere.

After the classroom visits, morning tea was enjoyed in the quiet area before heading off to the Junior School assembly. Many grand stories were discussed about the good old days at school and many told me how appreciative they were that the school had remembered them and planned such a special event for them.

At both of the assemblies I spoke about the recognition of Grandfriends at school and my plan to introduce a monthly program where Grandfriends can visit the school, work with students and stay on for a light morning tea or lunch. Grandfriends were invited to leave their name with me if they were interested in being a part of this group. I am pleased to say that six people left their names with me to contact for 2016. From little things big things grow. I will certainly follow up to arrange a day and suitable time so that we can commence this program in Term 1 next year. If you think your mum and dad or an interested grand friend would like to be part of this program, please let me know over the next two weeks so that I can include them in any paperwork that will be sent home. I have worked this in another school and the bond that exists between these age groups is nothing but extraordinary and a very powerful in student learning.
Many thanks to the organising teachers for a very successful day; it was certainly enjoyed by everyone. Thanks also to our parents for recognising that this was a special day for Grandfriends and allowing them the time at school on their own to enjoy their grandchildren.

We look forward to another special day next year and hopefully this will grow to be on the calendar for many years to come.

**PRIMARY ETHICS CLASSES**

Since early 2011, NSW public school children have had a legal right to attend classes in philosophical ethics at their school if; their parents give permission for them to go to ethics classes, and Primary Ethics can provide trained and vetted volunteers to organise and teach the classes. Classes are available to all children from Kindergarten to Year 6 who don’t attend the available Scripture/SRE (Special Religious Education) classes in their school. However, Primary Ethics can only provide these classes if it has trained volunteers from either the school community or the wider community.

**What are ethics classes?**

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that examines ethical concepts and issues, asking what is right or wrong in particular circumstances. The curriculum comprises a wide range of age appropriate topics that primary-aged children find interesting. Students learn to think about these ethical matters together and engage in the give-and-take of reasoned argument. This process allows students to properly consider other people’s points of view and to be sincere, reasonable and respectful in dealing with their differences and disagreements. The K-6 curriculum has 76 topics, starting with Questions and Puzzlement, introducing children to the foundation of ethical thinking. Children in the younger primary years examine issues such as being left out, sharing and bullying, while older children reflect on issues such as homelessness, fairness and teasing to help them consider the feelings and interests of others – one important aspect of moral reasoning. Other aspects include understanding consequences, having empathy and appreciating difference.

Research shows that well-reasoned moral judgement does not develop automatically as young people mature and that these skills are best developed using the methods that are employed in ethics classes. Once acquired, these skills accompany individuals into adulthood.

**Teachers**

This year at Oatley West, we have been very lucky to have had trained volunteer teachers to teach children from Kindy to Year 6. Unfortunately the teachers have move on, and more teachers are needed to meet the expected demand for ethics classes next year. Teaching ethics classes are very rewarding, and can be a great opportunity to volunteer at our school.

For information about Primary Ethics, our curriculum, and how you can become involved as a teacher, please visit www.primaryethics.com.au or contact Lena Pitsis, on 0438 413424.

If you are interested in your child attending ethics classes next year, please contact the school office.
SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2015

Please join in with the festivities at Hurstville South Public School next Sunday 8th November. Gates open at 10.00 am and the day concludes at 4.00 pm. Go along and join in the fun! It’s great to support our neighbouring schools.

PERCUSSION POWER WORKSHOP
Junior, Intermediate and Senior Percussion Power groups all had a great day on Sunday culminating in a fantastic concert at 3pm. All reports tell me that the concert was fantastic. We certainly have amazing kids here at Oatley West Public School who work hard and shine in everything they do!

Junior Percussion Power

Intermediate Percussion Power
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
Refuse to accept the many reasons why it can’t be done and ask if there are any reasons that it can be done.

Hanoch McCarty

Our Value for the week is CARE.
Care means to give concern to other people and precious things

Classes for 2016
We are looking at the structure of classes for 2016 and would appreciate any feedback for this to occur smoothly. If you intend to change schools or have younger children who haven’t enrolled yet, could you please notify the school as soon as possible. It looks like we will be creating a new class but need to be certain of our numbers.

Also, if there is anything you would like to let us know about your child that will assist us in creating harmonious classes, please address this information to Mrs Chappell. We will do our best to accommodate this and look forward to another great year in 2016.

Neralie Chappell - Deputy Principal

SPORT AND MUSIC PHOTOS

Sport, Music and Dance photos are now on view in the hall. The Sports Booklet can be viewed in the library or the front office.

Orders are written on the envelope provided, payment enclosed and returned to the office. Any online payments must also have an order envelope completed with 6 digit order number and returned to the office.

ORDERS ARE DUE BY 25TH NOVEMBER
Organic Diggers Report

It was another big week in the garden for the Diggers! Mustard Greens and Dill which were going to seed were removed, and their seeds harvested ready for planting next year. We planted marigolds, beetroot and strawberries. Digger teachers are looking forward to this weekend's Working Bee and BBQ! We're hoping to mulch the native garden site and do a general tidy up of the garden patch and citrus in addition to and building some beds beneath the trellis area for our beans. Happy Gardening!

Mr Burr and Mrs Aekins

Chess Tournament

The Oatley West Public School Chess Championship 2015 has been booked for Monday 7th December (Wk 10) from 9.00am - 1:00pm in the school hall. An entry form was handed out to interested students today which explains how the tournament will run. The cost is $17.50 per child and entries will close on Monday 30th November (Wk 9). Payment, along with the entry form, is to be put into the box in Mrs Laurence’s room. An entry form is also included in this newsletter or can be obtained from Mrs Laurence.

PLEASE NOTE - The tournament is not suitable for students who are only just beginning to learn chess. A good knowledge of the game and rules is required.

Please see me if you have any queries.

Anne Laurence

Library News

Belated congratulations to Luisa C and Daniel K for completing the 2015 Premier Reading Challenge!

Well done!
The PRC Challenge Certificates will be handed out at the end of Term 4.

Keep up the great reading and remember the motto.

Get Caught Reading!

Music Council News

Training Band 2016 – Audition forms are due today. Children currently in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 may apply. Please put in Band box in the office.

Minooka Pre-School - Training Band will be performing on Tuesday 3rd November and Intermediate Band will be performing on Thursday 5th November.

Selwyn Donges Bursaries – Applications for the Encouragement Award (from Intermediate Band) and Achievement Award (from Year 6 Concert Band) are due Friday 13th November. Please put in Band box in the office.

Musical Evenings - All the Percussion Power groups will be performing on Tuesday 24th November and all the Bands will be performing on Wednesday 25th November.

Any enquiries to Carmel Sharples

carmelsharple1@optusnet.com.au

Sport Report

Boys Basketball Round 5

The boys had another two great wins at home against Hurstville South last Friday and the Senior team remains undefeated.

Juniors won 33-9. Top scorer was Kai with 18 points, followed by Lachlan who scored 6, James
5 and Ethan 4 points. A great effort by all the team.

Seniors won with an amazing score of **83-9**. Top scorer was Alex on 16 points, followed closely by Harrison on 14 points and Tom on 13 points. Louis and Martin each scored 10 points, Aidan 8 points, while Oliver, Connor and Jonathon each scored 4 points. Well done boys!

Special thanks to Gretel Bush for refereeing the games.

This Friday we play away at Narwee Public School.

Anne Laurence

**Cake Day Reminder**

Thank you for your continued support of our fund raising Cake Day! It is always a popular event at recess – however could we please remind parents/carers we are cannot serve any cakes or biscuits with any traces of nuts.

Thank you for your support.
Oatley West Public School Chess Championship 2015
Entry Form

This tournament will be held on **Monday 7th December** from 9:00am - 1:00pm.

**Chess Championship Entry Fee: $17.50**
[Monday 7th December 9am-1pm]

To enrol, please tick the appropriate boxes below (equipment is optional):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Ticking Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workbook 1 – Beginner / Rookie</td>
<td>$22</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Workbook 2 – Intermediate</td>
<td>$22</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Workbooks 1&amp;2 – SPECIAL OFFER</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chess clock – DGT Easy Gametimer</td>
<td>$65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chess set – Roll-up chess board + pieces</td>
<td>$22</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW Advanced Book – Exploration in Chess Beauty</td>
<td>$33</td>
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**Total amount paid: $______________**

The tournament will be run as a Swiss, with approximately 7 games. This means that all children play in all the rounds and no one is knocked out.

There will be **trophies** awarded for the highest 3 scorers, and **medals** presented as age prizes. Each child playing will also receive a participation certificate. There will also be encouragement awards, depending on the number of entries.

To enrol, please fill in this form and return it with payment to the **school office by Monday 30th November**. Cheques are to be made payable to **Oatley West Public School**. Please place your form and payment together in a sealed envelope, with your child’s name and class written clearly on the front.

**Student’s Name:** __________________________________________ **Date of Birth:** _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _

**Class:** __________ **Parent’s Name:** ______________________________

**Contact Numbers:** (Home) __________ (Work) __________ (Mobile) __________

**Email:** ______________________________________________________

**Relevant medical conditions / allergies:** __________________________

**Signed:** __________________________________________ **Date:** _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _

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Sydney Academy of Chess Pty Ltd
Sydney Chess Centre, Level 1, 30A George Street Burwood, NSW
P: 9745 1170  F: 9745 1176  PO Box 1325, Burwood, NSW 1805
E: info@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au  W: sydneyacademyofchess.com.au
A note from School Banking
Please choose one of the following reward items:

Galaxy Glider
Outer Space Savers Money Box
Invisible Ink Martian Pens
Intergalactic Rocket
ET DVD

There is limited stock available of some of the 2014 reward items:

Shark Key Ring
Scented Pencils
Swimming Bag

All reward items are available while stocks last.
A Celebration of Gonski

The Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation) represents Parents and Communities of over 783,000 public school students in New South Wales and is committed to ensuring the best education for all of our children. A properly resourced public school system for our students is the only way that all students are able to obtain a world class education.

At a gathering to celebrate achievements from early Gonski funding at Merrylands High School on Thursday. Jason Vials, President of P&C Federation said “Despite new Federal Education Minister Birmingham’s comments, there is ample evidence of the good and great results coming from the initial Gonski funding in NSW. All he needs to do is ask parents, ask teachers, ask Principals. The NSW Department of Education is happy to provide that information, as is NSW Minister of Education Adrian Piccoli. I wonder who he is talking to, we are not shy of telling these good news stories!”.

‘Every child deserves the chance to shine! The next Bill Gates or Fiona Wood is sitting in a classroom in Bankstown or Bourke. Regardless of location, parental background or economic situation, every child should be getting the support and funding they need to achieve their potential.’ Mr Vials continued.

‘Our new Prime Minister acknowledges the value of the Gonski model, but is concerned about affordability in these tough budgetary times. We need to choose a 21st century education system over a 20th century road, or perks for rich superannuants.’ Mr Vials continued.

President Vials concluded, “Our children and our country need the full implementation of Gonski if we are to achieve the agile and innovative country Mr Turnbull says he wants. As a country we must proceed with the full implementation of the independent Gonski recommendations.”

Sydney, NSW, 29 October 2015
For Further Media Information Contact :

Media Contact:
President Jason Vials 0418 163 665 president@pandc.org.au